

Governor Martin O'Malley

Lt. Governor Anthony G. Brown

The Governor's Commission on Hispanic Affairs



December 13, 2013

Dear Commissioners and members of the Latino Community in Maryland:

Rick Martinez and I just returned yesterday from the Governor's trade mission to Brazil and El Salvador and we wanted to report back to you on some of the exciting new developments for Maryland that have come out of the trip!

Brazil:

For the first part of the trip, we were in Brazil with 30 businesses, higher education leaders and government officials. As you may know, Rio de Janeiro is one of Maryland's Sister States and they were celebrating 50 years of their partnership.

During the visit, we had the opportunity to witness the official "inking" of trade deals between Brazilian companies and BRACE pharma, Cambridge International and COLUMBIA Technologies. More info on those wins for Maryland can be found in the press releases on the Brazil trip on the Governor's website: http://www.governor.maryland.gov/blog/?page_id=6993

Lastly, the University of Maryland, College Park and SUPERA, a nonprofit tech incubator in Sao Paulo, signed a collaboration that will encourage tech transfer and encourage joint ventures between the UMD's Maryland International Incubator and SUPERA. The University of Maryland Center of Environmental Science also discussed the protection and restoration of the Guayabara Bay in preparation of the 2016 Olympics in Rio de Janeiro.

El Salvador:

As you may know, Maryland is home to the second largest Salvadoran population in the United States with over 120,000 residents and so the Governor wanted to begin a relationship with the Government of El Salvador that will result in more trade and trade missions in the future.

On December 8, 2013, the Governor arrived in El Salvador, marking the first visit by a Maryland governor in the State's history. He started the visit by signing a partnership agreement between Baltimore/Washington Thurgood Marshall Airport and El Salvador International Airport that will allow the sharing of best practices related to airport operations, security, maintenance and training.

The next day he met with El Salvador's President, Mauricio Funes to discuss the cultural and economic development ties between Maryland and El Salvador. He also addressed the American Chamber of Commerce of El Salvador during breakfast and spoke to dozens of Salvadoran companies that do business in the U.S. and American companies doing business in El Salvador. Josue Alvarado, president of Rio Grande Foods, a multi-million dollar importer of Salvadoran foods based in Laurel, MD also spoke to the Chambers about Maryland's strategic location for his company.

We also had the opportunity to accompany the First Lady the Honorable Judge Katie O'Malley on a visit to "Ciudad Mujer" which is a community for women which provides services for survivors of violence against women, psychological and legal counseling, police and judicial services, forensic medicine, health services, childcare, collective education, entrepreneurship and micro loans. Such an amazing place of healing and hope.

We then attended a roundtable discussion with several prominent Mayor's of El Salvador to discuss strategies on public safety and share information on the effectiveness of State Stat. Later that day, the Mayor of San Salvador presented the Governor with the Keys to the City and welcomed him and the delegation with a personal gift of a hand-made guitar, especially for him, by Salvadoran craftsmen.

We were delighted that Delegate Ana Sol Gutierrez, one of the first elected officials of Latin American decent in Maryland, was able to accompany us. We are extremely grateful for the support and guidance we received from the Governor's exceptional team which also included Jessy Mejia, the Administrative Director for the Governor's Hispanic Commission and also from El Salvador, who helped staff the Governor as well. It was a true honor for us to represent the

Commission on this historic trip and we look forward to sharing more experiences at the next Hispanic Commission meeting. Below are links to some pictures. Abrazos!

Signing Ceremony in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil



Governor Touring the EMS Headquarters in Sao Paulo, Brazil



Governor O'Malley with the President of El Salvador, Mauricio Funes



Mayor Gloria Calderon de Onate of San Salvador with Governor O'Malley



CEPA/BWI MOU Agreement



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